

# INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I want to commend my colleagues, Senators JEFFORDS, FRIST, HARKIN, and KENNEDY, and all the others that worked so long and hard to develop this bipartisan legislation. This is a carefully crafted compromise to balance the rights and concerns of school administrators and teachers as well as students and parents.

Because of attending a family memorial service in New York City, I could not be here for the final votes. Had I been in Washington, I would have supported the leadership and voted for final passage of the reauthorization of the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act, IDEA.

Our country should be proud of our efforts to provide education and opportunities to individuals with disabilities. Thanks to the IDEA, we opened schools to disabled children over 20 years ago and everyone in our society benefits from such inclusion and education.

In forging this legislation, leaders had to deal with difficult issues, including discipline problems sometimes involving weapons or drugs. Groups worked long and hard to develop an approach that would ensure that our schools are safe but that a disabled student's rights and education are also protected. Classroom teachers will now be included in the planning and process which is a major change and important improvement.

Federal funding and leadership on IDEA is crucial, but this program is a partnership with States and local schools. West Virginia, like other States, assumes the lion share of education funding but Federal funding provides incentives and leadership. As always with a comprehensive reauthorization package, there are some lingering issues and questions. On balance, this legislation is a tremendous achievement that continues our Federal commitment to help disabled students in West Virginia and every State in our country.

## U.S. FOREIGN OIL CONSUMPTION FOR WEEK ENDING MAY 9TH

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, the American Petroleum Institute reports that for the week ending May 9, the United States imported 7,566,000 barrels of oil each day, 1,057,000 barrels less than the 8,623,000 imported during the same week a year ago.

While this is one of the few weeks that Americans imported less oil than the same week a year ago, Americans still relied on foreign oil for 53.9 percent of their needs last week, and there are no signs that the upward spiral will abate. Before the Persian Gulf war, the United States obtained approximately 45 percent of its oil supply from foreign countries. During the Arab oil embargo in the 1970's, foreign oil accounted for only 35 percent of America's oil supply.

Anybody else interested in restoring domestic production of oil—by U.S. producers using American workers? Politicians had better ponder the economic calamity sure to occur in America if and when foreign producers shut off our supply—or double the already enormous cost of imported oil flowing into the United States—now 7,566,000 barrels a day.

## MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:06 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolutions, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 49. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby.

H. Con. Res. 67. Concurrent resolution authorizing the 1977 Special Olympics Torch Relay to be run through the Capitol Grounds.

H. Con. Res. 73. Concurrent resolution concerning the death of Chaim Herzog.

The message also announced that the House agrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 914) to make certain technical corrections in the Higher Education Act of 1965 relating to graduation data disclosures; with amendments, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate.

## MEASURES REFERRED

The following concurrent resolution was read and referred as indicated:

H. Con. Res. 73. Concurrent resolution concerning the death of Chaim Herzog; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

## EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. MURKOWSKI, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Elizabeth Anne Moler, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of Energy.

(The above nomination was reported with the recommendation that she be confirmed, subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.)

## INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second time by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mrs. HUTCHISON:

S. 738. A bill to reform the statutes relating to Amtrak, to authorize appropriations for Amtrak, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. BRYAN (for himself and Mr. REID):

S. 739. A bill to validate conveyances of certain lands in the State of Nevada that

form part of the right-of-way granted by the United States to the Central Pacific Railway Company; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. DASCHLE:

S. 740. A bill to provide a 1-year delay in the imposition of penalties on small businesses failing to make electronic fund transfers of business taxes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BREAUX:

S. 741. A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to enable the Federal Communications Commission to enhance its spectrum management program capabilities through the collection of lease fees for new spectrum for radio services that are statutorily excluded from competitive bidding, and to enhance law enforcement and public safety radio communications; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. DEWINE:

S. 742. A bill to promote the adoption of children in foster care; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. SNOWE (for herself, Mr. REID, Mr. WARNER, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. CHAFFEE, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mr. JEFFORDS):

S. 743. A bill to require equitable coverage of prescription contraceptive drugs and devices, and contraceptive services under health plans; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. JOHNSON (for himself and Mr. DASCHLE):

S. 744. A bill to authorize the construction of the Fall River Water Users District Rural Water System and authorize financial assistance to the Fall River Water Users District, a non-profit corporation, in the planning and construction of the water supply system, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

## STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mrs. HUTCHISON:

S. 738. A bill to reform the statutes relating to Amtrak, to authorize appropriations for Amtrak, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

AMTRAK REFORM AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 1997

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I think it is very important in this country that we have a national rail passenger system. Rail is a viable alternative transportation. We now have a bus system that is feeding into Amtrak stations so people can come from small communities on the bus, into the Amtrak station, and go anywhere in the country as long as we keep our national system. You can go from Marshall, TX, to Chicago, IL, or to San Antonio and then to Los Angeles or all the way to Florida. It is really an exciting opportunity.

However, Mr. President, the national rail passenger service that we have now is really just an experiment. It really does not work very well, through no fault of the people who run it. Tom Downs is actually doing a terrific job. But we in Congress have put so many constraints and mandates on him that he cannot possibly compete to survive.

So, in fact, it is time to get the railroad back on track. It is time to get